AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): An image recording apparatus comprising:

an image drafting means that drafts a line form image on a portion of a recording medium; and

a conveyance means that conveys said recording medium in a direction substantially perpendicular to the lengthwise direction of said drafted line form image; wherein said image is recorded two dimensionally on said recording medium by said conveyance means conveying said recording medium in said conveyance direction as said image drafting means drafts said line form image;

further comprising a detection means fixedly positioned in relation to said conveyed recording medium.

2. (original): An image recording apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein:

said image drafting means as well as said conveyance means are provided within a housing, and an opening is provided in said housing in the vicinity of the aforementioned conveyance means, extending in said conveyance direction.

3. (original): An image recording apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein:

said image drafting means is a thermal head.

4. (original): An image recording apparatus as defined in claim 2, wherein:

said image drafting means is a thermal head.

5. (original): An image recording apparatus as defined in any one of claims 1-4, wherein:

said conveyance means is capable of varying the conveyance speed of said recording medium.

6. (original): A method of shading correction that employs the image recording apparatus as defined in any one of claims 1-4, comprising the steps of:

recording a density pattern for shading correction on a recording medium;

obtaining said recording medium on which said density pattern for shading correction has been recorded;

conveying said recording medium having said density pattern recorded thereon in a direction that substantially matches the lengthwise direction of said density pattern;

detecting said density pattern by a detection means; and

obtaining shading correction data based on the detection result of said detection means.

7. (currently amended): A method of shading correction that employs the image recording apparatus as defined in claim 1~~5~~, comprising the steps of

recording a density pattern for shading correction on a recording medium;

obtaining said recording medium on which said density pattern for shading correction has been recorded;

conveying said recording medium having said density pattern recorded thereon in a direction that substantially matches the lengthwise direction of said density pattern at a speed slower than the speed at which said density pattern was recorded;

detecting said density pattern by a detection means; and

obtaining shading correction data based on the detection result of said detection means.

8. (new): A method of shading correction that employs the image recording apparatus as defined in claim 1, comprising:

providing a recording medium for recording an image;

recording a density pattern on said recording medium;

conveying said recording medium to move said density pattern by a detector;

detecting said density pattern with said detector to obtain shading correction data.

9. (new): The method of claim 8, further comprising:

conveying said recording medium by a printer head to record an image on said recording medium corrected by the obtained shading correction data.

10. (new): The method of claim 9, wherein said recording medium is conveyed at a first speed when said density pattern is being detected and a second speed when said image is recorded.

11. (new): The method of claim 10, wherein a said first speed is slower than said second speed.

12. (new): The method of claim 9, wherein the recording medium is conveyed in a first direction for detecting said density pattern which is different than a second direction in which said recording medium is conveyed when said image is recorded.